

THE JOURNAL



OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

1915 — Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Numismatics — 1990

610 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

July 25, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

The Story of Half Cents

Speaker: Bill Weber

August 29, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Merchant Tokens

Speaker: Ron Miller

September 26, 1990. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

White Elephant Sale

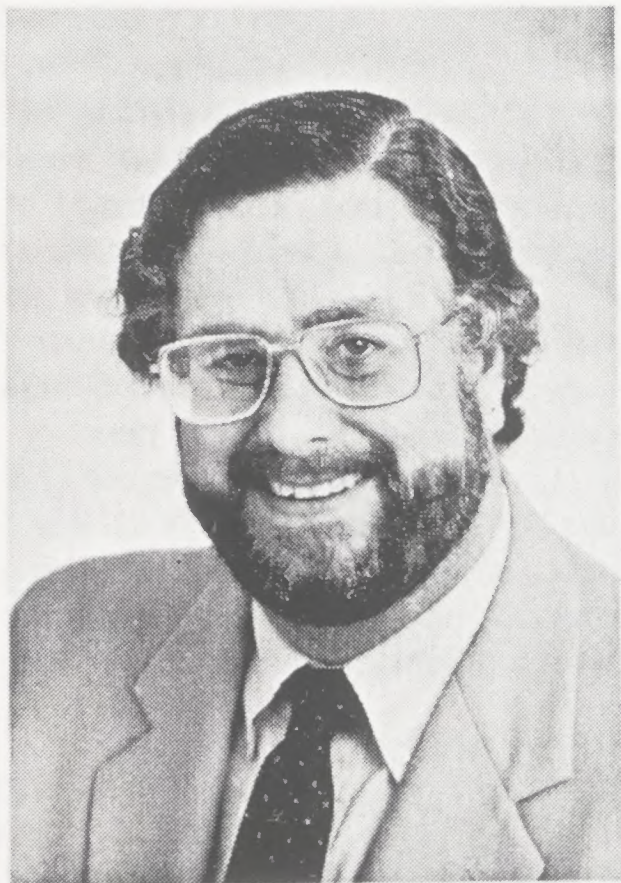
A benefit Auction for PCNS

Bring your junk and gems to donate!

Monthly meetings are held at The New Telephone Museum in San Francisco
1515 -19th Avenue (between Kirkham & Lawton). Guests are invited.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Webster



The old saying goes "Time flies when you're having fun." Every time I'm reminded that another president's message is due, I know that I must be having a good time.

Summer is the time for vacations. As you go on vacation, do you leave your collecting interests behind, or do you visit coin and antique shops as you travel? As much as possible, I visit coin, antique and bookstores in search of the numismatic treasure that is gathering dust in a display case. While I don't always find something of interest, I have had many conversations that are interesting if not rewarding. Who knows? Maybe you can discover a dealer who shares your interests or one who has a hard-to-find piece waiting just for you.

For those of us who collect numismatic books, used book stores can also be an adventure in addition to an afternoon of exploration. After all, the thrill of the hunt can be as exciting as finding a coin or book for your collection.

If your vacation this year takes you to Seattle between August 22 and 28, try to attend the American Numismatic Association Convention. David Lange is putting together an exhibit of some of the items from the PCNS 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition collection.

As always, I urge you to put pen to paper and write an article for The Journal. Articles are always welcome. If writing is not what you want to do, perhaps you would like to speak at one of our meetings. If so, drop a note to Vice-President Don Burns so he can include your presentation in the schedule. Another way to share your interests is to bring an exhibit to one of the meetings and tell us about it. Share your interests with us; we would like to hear about them.

See you at the next meeting.

Rick Webster

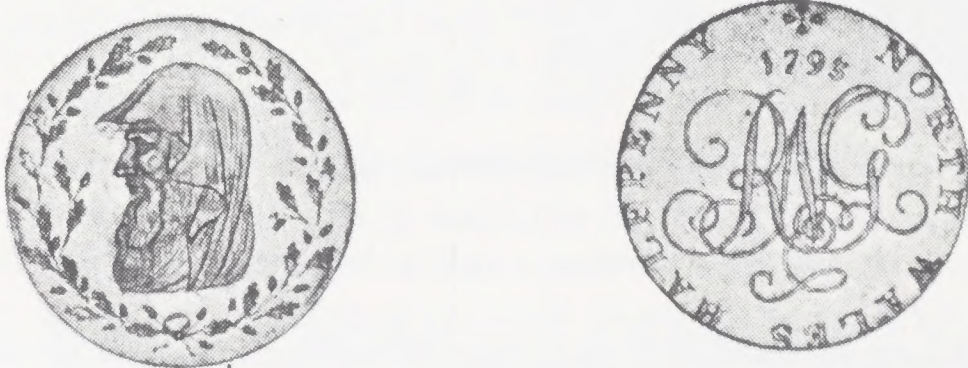
THE CONDER IS NOT A BIRD:

An Introduction to the Token Coinage of 18th Century Great Britain

by Frank Van Valen

Regal coinage, the coinage of the king and Royal Mint of England, was very scarce as a circulating medium in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Farthing, halfpenny, penny and minor silver pieces were minted in very small quantities in the relatively few years that saw any coinage at all. Hoards of underweight imitation regal coppers, another series that is avidly collected by today's numismatists, were in circulation at this time, but these were so underweight and undervalued that the merchants of the time eventually refused to accept them in the everyday channels of commerce. Into this coinage situation the series of emergency tokens known as Conder tokens was born.

Conder tokens are a form of emergency money, much the same as our Civil War and Hard Times tokens and the base-metal and paper Notgeld of World War I Europe are considered money. Regal coinage was very scarce as a circulating medium and, as a result, the working class—the very people who depended most on these small-denomination pieces in their everyday commerce—felt the lack of circulating coinage the most severely.



Parys Mines 1793 Halfpenny Token

In the mining towns of Wales where a good percentage of able-bodied adults worked for the mines, many people quite literally "owed their souls to the company store". The severe shortage of circulating coinage eventually became so acute that in 1787 the Parys Mining Company of Anglesey, Wales, began to issue its own money in the form of copper farthing, halfpenny and penny pieces. Artistically engraved and carefully minted to strict tolerances, these Druid Head tokens soon gained a reputation as "good coppers" of good weight and were freely accepted by merchants for many miles around Anglesey. More importantly, these tokens were accepted by the workers at the Parys Mines as just compensation for their labors, and they were readily accepted by the company store in exchange for goods.

After Conder tokens had gained in popularity as a substitute for regal coinage, well-to-do collectors of the day began assembling collections of these

tokens from circulation or direct from the manufacturers. Word of this soon spread, and, before many years of circulating "good coppers" had been enjoyed by the public, the channels of commerce were flooded with underweight and overvalued fantasy pieces. So many of these underweight fantasy pieces were eventually issued for circulation by companies and individuals that they soon drove the good coppers of acceptable weight standards out of circulation. This was totally unacceptable to the general public, and the outcry was so severe that in 1797 the famous "cartwheel" penny and twopenny pieces were minted by order of the king.



Birmingham Company Halfpenny Tokens

The deterioration of the Conder token series can be traced through the issues of the Birmingham Mining and Copper Company of 1791-94. The first tokens of this company featured a seated Britannia motif on the obverse with a stork on the reverse. The average weight of one of these pieces in extremely fine condition is 205.1 grains, with an average thickness of 2.4mm and an average diameter of 29.9mm. Two years later, these pieces had shrunk to 145.9 grains in weight, 1.9mm in thickness and 29.1mm in diameter. Some of the coins from this later time are doubly evasive as they feature the legend "Birmingham Coining and Copper Company" with the original word "Mining" changed to "Coining." These minor changes in weight and style probably went unnoticed by the average citizen. Just two years later, this series had deteriorated in size to just 1.7mm in thickness, 28.5mm in diameter and a weight of just 128.1 grains! These later pieces were struck from shallow, poorly-prepared dies with no regard for sharpness of features or legends in the dies. Pieces such as these were immediately suspect when they first hit general circulation and were directly responsible for the demise of this colorful series of circulating tokens.

Conder tokens received their name from James Conder of Ipswich in Suffolk County who published a book on the subject with the very long and all-inclusive title "An arrangement of Provincial coins, tokens, and medalets issued in Great Britain, Ireland and the colonies within the last 20 years from the farthing to the penny size in two volumes, octavo, with three plates of illustrations." These very large volumes were printed on one-sided pages. The bottom of the title page states "Ipswich, printed and sold by George Jermyn. Sold also by T. Conder, No. 30 Bucklersbury, and H. Young, No. 10 Tavistock St. London, 1798."

Many other books were in use at the same time as Conder's volume, but his

was the main source of reference until the publication of "The Tradesmen's tokens of the 18th Century" by James Atkins in London, 1892. By this time, the term "Conder token" was in use, and the name has graced this series ever since.

The volume most often referred to by today's numismatists is titled "The Provincial Token-Coinage of the 18th Century" by Richard Dalton and Steven H. Hamer, published in 1910. As rare as many of the tokens featured within its 567 pages, this book has been reprinted twice, and even the reprints can sell for \$150-200! It is profusely illustrated and is as complete a numismatic reference as any book can possibly be, covering as it does more than 4,000 types and varieties of tokens from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, where the series began.

Many common themes can be found on tokens from all parts of the British Isles, including storks (considered good luck in Europe), coats of arms of issuing cities, naval themes, Britannia and religious motifs. Animals, political statements and advertising also played prominent roles in the designs on these tokens.

Indeed, many of the great rarities of our United States colonial series are actually Conder tokens. The manufacturers of these pieces could not resist the opportunity to chastise King George III openly, and what better means to do so than on circulating tokens of the day. George Washington is one motif that received a lot of use on these tokens. The Washington cent with small and large eagle designs is a Conder token that has been featured prominently for many years in our own colonial series, as are the Grate token and the Kentucky token, both of which can be found in the opening section of "A Guidebook of United States Coins", or the "red book" as it is known to U.S. coin collectors. One popular Conder token features a kneeling black man in shackles asking the rhetorical question "Am I not a man and a brother?" This motif later appears in our own Hard Times token series from the late 1830s and early 1840s.

The series of eighteenth century copper tokens known as Conder tokens offers today's collector a fascinating collecting challenge. These colorful and interesting tokens can be collected by county, by theme (horses or ships, for instance) or simply by whatever type catches the fancy of the collector. The best feature of Conder tokens is the fact that they are relatively inexpensive and can be found on the bourse floor of nearly all coin shows. If you are looking to add some inexpensive fun to your collecting days, why not start a Conder token collection. There are enough types to keep a collector busy for a lifetime!

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Special thanks to Cathy Dumont of Bowers and Merena Galleries for her photography.



THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

United States Numismatic Literature, Volumes 1 and 2

In 1982 a book was published which immediately became the ultimate reference in its field. This book was *United States Numismatic Literature, Volume 1* by John W. Adams. It provided detailed descriptions of nineteenth-century numismatic auction catalogs and biographies of the people behind them. In his preface to *Volume 1*, Mr. Adams expressed his intent to produce a second volume detailing nineteenth-century numismatic reference books and periodicals and, ultimately, a third volume covering twentieth-century auction catalogs.

Response to the first volume was so overwhelmingly favorable that it has prompted Adams to reverse the sequence of *Volumes 2* and *3*. Therefore, the next entry in this trilogy is his review of twentieth-century auction catalogs, set for release August 1, 1990. As my own copy will not have arrived when this issue of The Journal is published, all comments about Adams' books are based upon my familiarity with *Volume 1*.

Although the author does not attempt to achieve absolute completeness by listing every obscure auction and mail-bid sale ever produced, all of the significant catalogers are included with each of their own sales. In the listing of sales, an overall rating is included based upon the author's appraisal of each catalog's worth in research material, pedigrees and appearances of significant pieces. The main features of each sale as well as a few individual highlights are also provided as a guide to the reader.

Perhaps the most important feature for the researcher or the collector is to be found in a later chapter. Each catalog is rated by subject in report-card fashion. For example, a catalog that is strong in early United States copper coins might receive an "A" in this column. If a small but interesting collection of privately-coined gold pieces is included in the sale, a rating of "B" or "B+" may be given. Grades are assigned for a total of 26 categories including such areas as medieval coins, colonial paper money, patterns and even numismatic literature.

The biographies of each cataloger make for very entertaining reading in themselves and are accompanied by charming illustrations of the subjects by artist Alan Dietz. I presume that *Volume 2* will receive a similar treatment.

Being dedicated enthusiasts of numismatic literature, both author Adams and publisher George F. Kolbe have produced books of singular quality with the bibliophile in mind. As with *Volume 1*, the new installment is being printed on acid-free paper. This means that its usefulness will outlast our own by a century or two at the very least.

Continued on page 28

1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR - Part 4



The Iowa Award

by Michael S. "Stan" Turrini

The highest honor the State of Iowa can bestow is "The Iowa Award," and so esteemed is this award that since its inception only 11 individuals have been honored as recipients.

The Iowa Award is a direct result of the sales of the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar. The proceeds to fund the Iowa Award, presented about once every five years, were earned from the 1946-1947 sales of this commemorative half dollar. The purposes of this fund were provided for in the Executive Proclamation of Governor Robert D. Blue dated January 5, 1949. In this continuing series on the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar, this fourth article will summarize the Iowa Award and list its respected recipients.¹

The governing provision of the Iowa Award is in the Articles of Incorporation of the "Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation" which was established by Governor Blue's Proclamation, Article I, Paragraph 6:

To this end, the income from the trust fund shall be used to encourage and recognize achievement and outstanding service to Iowa citizens in the fields of science, medicine, law, religion, social welfare, education, agriculture, industry, government, and public service of outstanding and of state-wide importance and merit. That these purposes may be accomplished by the use of scholarships or loans to students, or by use of awards, medals, or any other proper means of recognizing ability, service, or achievement by Iowa citizens which have resulted in outstanding benefit or honor to the State or nation as a whole.²

The Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, later confirmed by acts of the Iowa State Legislature, adopted May 15, 1951, has certain avowed purposes, one of which is to use "awards, medals, or any other means of recognizing ability, service, or achievement by Iowa citizens...." ³ As the previous article in this series on the late Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) noted, thanks to his daughter Barbara Blue Dittmar's kind remembrances, the Iowa Award is exactly what Governor Blue would have wanted: something from the centennial year (1946) respecting and honoring others so long after.

This article is dedicated to Governor N. A. Erbe, Governor of Iowa (1961-1963). The author expresses his most humble and profuse appreciation to Governor Erbe for his repeated and continued interest and involvement in this series.

The procedure for selecting recipients is not known, and it seems that through the years differing methods may have been applied. The Bylaws of the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, Article IV, provide for the permanent Standing Committee of Awards and Medals. It can be concluded that any initial recommendations and discussions as to potential recipients originate with this committee which later proposed same to the full foundation.

Just for information, the foundation, a non-profit legally-authorized corporation within Iowa, is composed of Iowa's current governor, state treasurer, attorney-general, and president of the State Board of Education. It also includes all former Iowa governors who legally reside within Iowa and wish to serve plus four citizens-at-large who serve staggered terms and are appointed by the governor. The foundation meets annually, usually in July, in Des Moines, the capital of Iowa.

To date, recipients of the Iowa Award as listed in the current edition of the *Iowa State Register* are:

President Herbert Hoover, 1951

Jan N. "Ding" Darling, 1955

Dr. Frank Spedding, 1961

Dr. James Van Allen, 1961

Henry A. Wallace, 1966

Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower, 1970

Dr. Karl King, 1975

Dr. Norman Borlaug, 1978

Monsignor Luigi Liguitti, 1980

George Gallup, 1984

Meredith Willson, 1988

Most names are well-enough known to explain his or her selection, and most standard biographical references or encyclopedias would provide much more information on each than is given here. Needless to say, all are, or were, Iowans.

The first Iowa Award recipient was former President Herbert Hoover who was born in West Branch, Iowa. He was nominated by Ralph Evans, citizen member of the foundation, and seconded by Governor Blue at the foundation June 7, 1951 meeting. The minutes read:

Moved that one of the original fifty cent pieces struck by the United States Mint and now contained in a plastic case in the Treasurer's Office be given to Ex-President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, at the time of his appearance in the State of Iowa, to receive the the first "Iowa Award". The motion was duly put by the Chairman and unanimously passed.⁴

It was recorded in the minutes of the May 21, 1952, foundation meeting that "The Iowa Award to former President Herbert Hoover was made at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines on the afternoon of August 30, 1951...and after the luncheon a Centennial Half Dollar was presented to Mr. Hoover by Ralph Evans on behalf of the Foundation."⁵

Ralph Evans had been "the main member of the committee who looked after the coins;"⁶ actually, he was the chairman of the "Sub-Committee on Coin" of the Iowa Centennial Committee which coordinated and supervised the events and activities of Iowa's Statehood Centennial in 1946. Future articles in this series will review the late Mr. Evans and his work on this half dollar and the committee's sales of the half dollar in 1946 and 1947.

As read, implied with the Iowa Award is the presentation of one Iowa half dollar; however, in researching records available to this author, except for

President Hoover's half dollar, it is not clear whether the other ten recipients also received a half dollar. Governor Blue, in a letter to this author, stated that "coins were not used for Iowa Award,"⁷ but Governor N. A. Erbe, former Governor of Iowa (1961-1963) and an active member of the foundation, believes each, except for the latest, has been presented a half dollar.

What is known is that each recipient would receive, beginning with Meredith Willson in 1988, a specially struck "medal hung on a red, white, and blue ribbon"⁸ and a certificate. The actual presentation is a ceremony presided over by the governor who makes the award; the event is usually a large public gathering with media coverage. The initiative for this new medal and certificate was undertaken by Governor Erbe.

The newly-issued Iowa Award medal was designed by Rebecca Ekstrand, a well-known Iowa sculptress who had received previous commissions across Iowa. Her work was assisted by Dee Erbe Wittmack, a designer by profession working for the Meredith Publishing Company. Mrs. Wittmack is the daughter of Governor Erbe who proposed the medal and consulted Mrs. Ekstrand on the final design.



Figure 1. The Iowa Award. The first recipient of this medal was Meredith Willson, posthumously in 1988.

© State Historical Society of Iowa

The medal, 2-1/4" in diameter, is uniface; the reverse is for engraving the recipient's name and the date of award. The composition is polished bronze. Ten medals were minted by the Metalcraft Mint of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The State Historical Society of Iowa stores eight and the state treasurer's office has one for public display and publicity. Note that one has already been awarded.

Governor Erbe remarked that at "our present rate of designating honorees they (the nine medals) should last for forty years."⁹

The symbols on the medal are most fittingly Iowan: the state bird, eastern goldfinch; state flower, wild rose; and state tree, oak (the leaves and acorns) over an outline of the state. The eagle with the ribbon—"Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Maintain"—is the state motto and is similar to the eagle on the half dollar's reverse.

Regardless of whether or not a half dollar is or has been bestowed, only eleven recipients have been so honored. The brief sketches of each follow:

1951, President Herbert Hoover (1874-1965). Engineer, humanitarian, author, and president of the United States (1929-1933). First president born west of the Mississippi River.

1955, Jay N. "Ding" Darling (1875-1962). Renowned cartoonist and conservationist. Twice won the Pulitzer Prize. Creator of Federal Duck Stamps.¹⁰

1961, Dr. James Van Allen, born September 7, 1914, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Famous physicist and educator. Worked in early rocket and space explorations. Discoverer of Van Allen belts.

1966, Henry A. Wallace (1888-1965). Secretary of Agriculture (1933-1941) and vice-president of the United States (1941-1945). Famous as agricultural specialist. Developer of hybrid corn. The award was posthumous.

1970, Mamie Eisenhower (1896-1979). Beloved first lady and wife of five-star general and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Born at Boone, Iowa.

1975, Dr. Karl King (1891-1971). Bandmaster and composer. Wrote about three hundred works. Served a fifty-year career as director of the Fort Dodge Municipal Band. The award was posthumous.

1978, Dr. Norman Borlaug, born March 25, 1914, near Cresco, Iowa. Plant pathologist and geneticist. Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. Developed "green revolution". Lives and works in Mexico City, FD, Mexico.

1980, Monsignor Luigi Liguitti, born March 21, 1895, in Italy. Clergyman. Naturalized United States citizen. Director of National Catholic Rural Life Conference/Movement based in Granger, Iowa. Worked both in Granger and the Vatican.

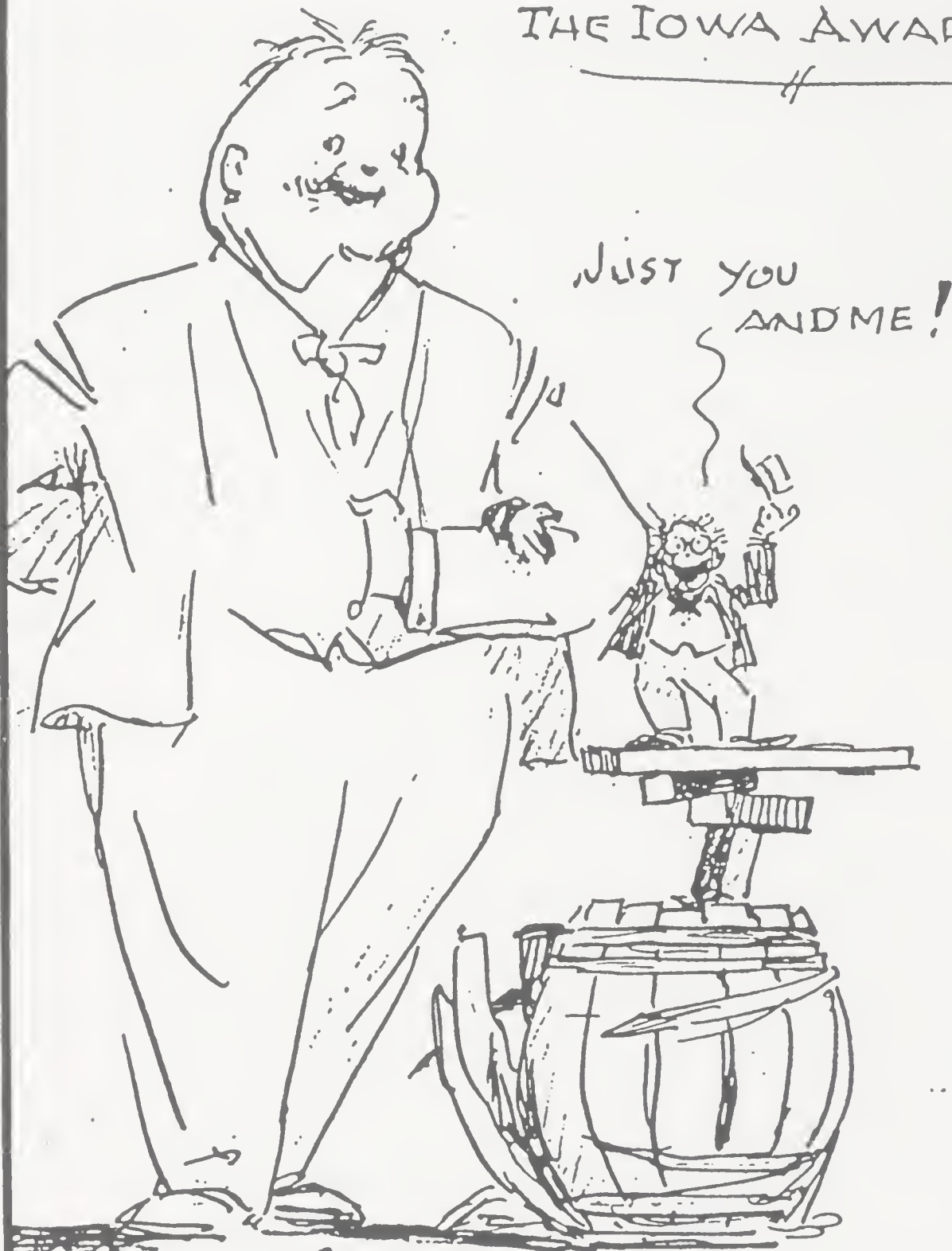
1984, George Gallup (1901-1984). Known for his studies of public opinion sampling. Founder of the Gallup Poll and Quill and Scroll, an honorary society for high school journalism.

1988, Meredith Willson (1902-1984). Composer. Most famous for his musical, "The Music Man", which was in part based on his home town of Mason City, Iowa. The award was posthumous.

There is no record of who else may have been considered, and the next award is not anticipated until 1992 or later. Those who are not native Iowans have been noted.

Just a little story about the award given to George Gallup: Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller remembers that, due to an oversight and his very short visit to Des Moines, George Gallup was never presented a half dollar. There was a discussion about mailing him one; his death shortly thereafter ended such an idea.

THE IOWA AWARDS



Dear Chief
 It's the proudest moment
 of my life — Ding Darling.

Figure 2. 'Ding' Darling, award-winning cartoonist, drew this funny sketch and sent it to his friend, President Herbert Hoover. The heading 'The Iowa Awards' refers to both Hoover and Darling as the first two recipients. Close friends of Hoover generally addressed him as 'The Chief'. The cartoon was sketched about October 1955. Provided by the Herbert Hoover Library and Special Collections Department of the State University of Iowa Library and reproduced here with permission; cartoon is copyrighted.

Another story on this award is that Rosemary Willson, wife of the late Meredith Willson, who was deeply moved by the tribute, was bestowed both a medal, the first to receive one, and a large ornate certificate inscribed "Meredith Willson, son of Iowa, has engendered in the citizens of his native state a deep sense of pride, esteem, and satisfaction that he is one of us. He has served us well."¹¹ It was signed by then Governor Terry Branstad and four former Iowa governors: Robert D. Blue, N. A. Erbe, Harold E. Hughes and Robert D. Ray.

If a half dollar is given, the source of the supply, currently inventoried at 23, retained by the state treasurer, presently the Honorable Michael L. Fitzgerald, within the treasurer's vault at the state capitol building. These half dollars seem to be from a group set aside in 1948 and may be from the *first* fifty Iowa half dollars minted on November 20, 1946. At the time, it was decided to hold separate the first fifty coins out of the 100,000 total mintage. These first half dollars and the minting will be reviewed in a future article in this series.

For numismatists and commemorative coinage students, the Iowa Award may not mean much unless a recipient has an Iowa half dollar; however, as this series progresses, this article is more than just another story about the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial half dollar. It is a fitting testimonial to the late governor Robert D. Blue's foresight in chartering the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation that over four decades later the proceeds of the Iowa half dollars' sales continue to "honor the memory and achievements of our forefathers and serve our children and our children's children" and in doing so "inspire future citizens of Iowa."¹²

FOOTNOTES

1. The two primary sources for researching and writing this article were Steven F. Miller, Deputy State Treasurer of Iowa, and Governor N. A. Erbe, former governor of Iowa (1961-1963), whose repeated interest and involvement are most appreciated.

2. Governor Robert D. Blue, Executive Proclamation, January 5, 1949.

3. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, Articles of Incorporation, Article I.

4. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, minutes of June 7, 1951 meeting.

A copy of those minutes was taken from original Minutes Book of the Foundation and provided to this author courtesy of Deputy State Treasurer Steven F. Miller. Supposedly, the old records of the foundation are stored in the same safe deposit box as the hoard of 1,000 Iowa half dollars which was reviewed in previous articles in this series.

5. Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, minutes of May 21, 1952 meeting. As the foundation meets annually, this would account for the time separating this quote and the prior one, Footnote 4.

6. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of August 15, 1988.

7. Governor Robert D. Blue, letter of December 15, 1988.

8. Governor N. A. Erbe, letter of September 27, 1988.

9. Governor N. A. Erbe, letter of May 13, 1990.

10. "Ding" Darling and President Hoover apparently were close friends; both were Republicans and had known each other over many years. Figure 2 is

continued on page 16

Small Size Notes

Pocket changel That's right, some syngraphists collect "pocket change", better known as "small size notes". While large size notes (both type and nationals) remain the mainstay of most currency collections, many collectors are disdaining the older "horseblankets" in favor of the smaller (physically), less attractive, less expensive (usually!) but still challenging area of small size notes.

First issued on January 10, 1929 (although designated as Series 1928), these notes were the result of a 1925 committee recommendation which included information gained from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's use of smaller size notes for the Philippines. Cost savings was a prime factor in the decision, with public acceptance carefully considered as well. Time has shown that this well-founded study and implementation resulted in minimal disruption to American commerce. Large size notes circulated freely with the new small bills with the removal/destruction of the larger notes being a very slow, deliberate process. No attempt was made to recall large notes, and they remain legal tender today.

Sixty-plus years later, there is a wealth of collectability in small size notes. In addition to several usual ways to collect them, small size note collectors have added a few unusual ways as well. Most beginning collectors start with a type collection and often follow this up with a denomination collection as well. The type set includes National Bank notes (brown seals), United States notes (red seals), silver certificates (blue seals), gold certificates (yellow seals), Federal Reserve Bank notes (brown seals), and Federal Reserve notes (green seals).

There should be no way to collect all five types in a single denomination since the United States notes were only issued for circulation in \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$100 denominations, silver certificates in \$1, \$5 and \$10, while the gold certificates were only issued in \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and higher denominations. Chuck O'Donnell, however, lists a single specimen of a \$10 United States note of Series 1928, which was certainly obtained through unauthorized means! Most collectors limit themselves to specimens which were actually issued, and hence have more than one denomination in their collections. Similarly, most collections stop at the \$100 denomination, as collecting the \$500 and \$1,000 notes becomes a little too expensive after a while. Dealing with the \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$100,000 denominations is even more challenging, as these were only used in bank-to-bank transactions and seldom made it to the collector market at all.

Not all collectors attempt type collections, instead focusing on alternate goals such as fancy serial numbers, blocks, varieties, or replacement notes. Fancy serial numbers (such as 0000001, 11111111, 99999999), palindromes (or radars) reading the same forwards as backwards (such as 12344321, 98766789), stutter notes (such as 12341234 or 65436543), ladder series (a set of 00000001, 00000011, 00000111, 00001111, ... 11111111), etc. are always highly sought after. Block collecting takes type collecting one step further, by attempting to obtain a note from each serial number prefix/suffix pair (A13579765B is block AB while G76397321B is block GB). Some series have a

very low number of blocks, while others range over 1000. Other collectors seek out varieties in size/location of plate numbers, margins or mules (mismatched face/back plates due to the reuse of old plates). Replacement notes (called stars, due to the fact that an asterisk replaces the prefix or suffix letter) are another avidly collected area, with much demand for the rare issues being evident when they come up at auction.

Despite these side trips into specialty areas, a budding syngraphist (can still include some interesting and historical items in his or her collection at a reasonable price. The Hawaii overprinted notes and the North African notes mentioned in a previous column can be obtained in slightly circulated condition for less than \$100 and for less than \$10 in lower circulated grades. Experimental paper tests (the R and S varieties of the 1935-A \$1 silver certificates) are less than \$15 each (well-circulated) to a few hundred dollars in crisp uncirculated. Error notes also exist and may be picked up for a few dollars over face (for common smudging/wiping errors) to a few hundred (blank back, overprint on back, etc). In fact, take a look at the bills in your pocket right now—you probably have an error note already! Recently, some problems with the black ink at the BEP have resulted in flaky notes, usually Series 1988 \$1 bills. If a note generally looks washed out all around the edges and the portrait, but the black Federal Reserve seal and the the green serial numbers are still bright, congratulations! You've got a genuine error, although it's unfortunately not worth a premium over face value at present.

Many collectors truly enjoy the small size specialty areas due to the minimal investment required compared to other collections and the absolute lack of investors to drive up prices—some very nice collections of \$1 Federal Reserve note blocks can be put together in crisp uncirculated condition for a few dollars over face value. Additionally, this pursuit is very collector/trader oriented, as many common pieces are not stocked by major currency dealers, leaving the collector to develop his own network of similarly-inclined friends. Picking up a crisp uncirculated pack of newly issued \$1 bills at a bank for \$100 leaves 99 trades still to be made!

Small size notes will also soon undergo a major transformation as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing introduces notes with security threads and/or microprinting to deter counterfeiting with the next generation of color photocopiers. Samples have already been run. Notes for circulation are expected later this year or early next year after the paper is produced in sufficient volume. As usual, introduction is expected with the higher denominations (\$50 and \$100), with the smaller values to follow at a later date.

The next time you fish into your pocket to pay for your groceries, take another look at that bill you're forking over —some collector might want it!

References and Suggestions for Further Reading:

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reproduced here with the permission of the Herbert Hoover Library, located at West Branch, Iowa, and the Special Collections Department of the state University of Iowa Library. Figure 1, the Iowa Award, is reproduced with the permission of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Both figures were provided courtesy of Governor N. A. Erbe. Both figures are copyrighted and reproduction in any manner or by any means is prohibited.

11. Certificate of the Iowa Award to Meredith Willson. Copy of wording provided courtesy of Governor N. A. Erbe.

12. Governor Robert D. Blue, Executive Proclamation, January 5, 1949.

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State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 East Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

NOTE: Mr. Turrini's third article on the Iowa Statehood commemorative half dollar should have included the following dedication.

To Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989), Governor of Iowa (1945-1949). The Author expresses his most humble appreciation to the late Governor Blue for his interest and assistance in this series.

The Journal regrets this omission and any inconvenience it may have caused.



NCNA

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1990 P.C.N.S. LITERARY AWARDS

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society expresses its appreciation to the authors who contributed articles for the past year's Journal. The following is a list of the 1990 Literary Award winners:

First Place

L. V. Reppeteau — *A Penny of Gold*

Second Place

Stephen M. Huston — *From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston*

Third Place

Herbert Zander — *A History of Venezuelan Coins*

Honorable Mentions

Ivan Florine — for his series on *Chinese Cash Coinage*

Michael S. Turrini — for his series on the *1946 Iowa Half Dollar*

Journal Contributors

Ken Barr

Donald G. Burns

Hugh Cooper

Robert Gray

David W. Lange

Herbert Miles

L. A. Saryan

Jerry F. Schimmel

George L. Smyth

Kerry Wetterstrom



PHOTO UPDATE

In Journal number 19, April 1989, Roger Langton penned an article entitled *A New Face on Mexican Coins*. Mr. Langton described the portrait of Juana de Asbaje which appears on the 1000 peso note and coin of Mexico. Pictured here is the 1000 peso coin which was not available to The Journal last year.

MEDALS OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

by David W. Lange

The recently-issued medal honoring the 75th anniversary of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society is only the fifth such commemorative in the society's history. There have been, of course, several privately-produced items relating to PCNS, but these are more properly classified as tokens. Both series are sought by collectors of PCNS memorabilia. What follows is an attempt to record that which is known of these various issues and of the people who created them.

The first medal officially sponsored by PCNS was an octagonal silver piece issued in 1940 in celebration of the society's 25th anniversary. Announcement of the proposed medal was not made until April of that year, at which time the members were urged to subscribe at a cost of \$3.

Unfortunately, nothing is to be found in the meeting minutes which would establish the place of manufacture or the number coined. Shreve & Co. of San Francisco has been suggested as a possible minter, although the reason for this attribution is not known. Patrick & Co., also of San Francisco, is another firm that has been mentioned in connection with the silver jubilee medal as in the following episode.

In 1966, a member of the Token and Medal Society wrote to PCNS member Lesley Lodge inquiring whether he knew of anyone interested in obtaining a specimen of this medal. Unaware of the asking price, Lodge suggested that, if the price were reasonable, he would consider purchasing the medal himself and donating it to the society as a supplement to its own example. When informed that \$175 was being asked for the medal, he related his belief that this figure would deter any potential purchasers. In a subsequent letter, the correspondent revealed that she was merely acting as an agent for the medal's owner. She also queried Lodge as to the number coined.

Unable to answer this question, Lodge wrote to PCNS Librarian George Sailor requesting that he search the meeting minutes from that time for any clues. Of course, Sailor's attempt to procure this information was no more successful than my own would be more than twenty years later.

Lodge then wrote to Patrick & Co., a supplier of office products which also manufactures stamps and seals and has a long history of creating store cards and related items. How he knew to inquire with this company is not clear from his letter, but he states in it that "late in 1939 or early 1940 our Society arranged through your firm the striking of a number of silver medals."

In a reply dated October 11, 1966, one T. Godley of Patrick & Co. informed Lodge that "as our files do not go back to 1939, we have not been able to find any record of having made these metals (sic) for your Society." Godley then confidently asserts "but, I am sure we did and can." This last statement reveals Godley's mistaken notion that the society wished to have more of the medals struck, and a request was made to see a specimen before furnishing any estimate.

None of this correspondence proves with any certainty that Patrick & Co. struck the society's 1940 medal. Lodge must have realized the vagueness of this claim when he wrote back to the original correspondent in a letter dated December 3, 1966, "I wrote to Patrick & Co., San Francisco, whom (sic) apparently struck these pieces, but they advise me they (sic) records do not go back that far. So, no luck in answering that question."

While the place of manufacture may never be established, the number of medals struck can be estimated by examining the society's membership figures. At the end of 1939, PCNS carried 55 regular members and nine non-resident members for a total of 64 persons. Since this medal is known to have been struck to order on a subscription basis, it is doubtful that even half of that number was coined. Thus a mintage of 20 to 30 pieces would seem likely.

That the 1940 medal is rare has been established by all those who have attempted to procure one. In conversation with other collectors, I have been able to trace the whereabouts of only five specimens. Undoubtedly others exist in private collections or amongst dealers' stocks. My own efforts to acquire an example through classified advertisements proved unsuccessful, and I was able to obtain my specimen only by purchasing it from the collection of a longtime PCNS member.

The society lacked the funds to completely pay for the striking of these medals, and it was not until July 1941 that President Earl Parker could report all debts paid. These last outstanding debts were to various members who had lent the money necessary to pay the coiner. Additional revenue had been obtained through auctions at the society's monthly meetings for which a consignor's fee was charged. This money was immediately transferred into the medal fund.

Although not specifically stated, it may be inferred from the minutes that the entire issue of 1940 medals was sold out by the end of 1941. One piece had been presented to the co-founder of PCNS, Farran Zerbe, at the anniversary banquet in June 1940. Zerbe sold this piece not long afterward, and it is presently in the collection of a society member.

The 25th anniversary medal possesses some peculiar features which are worthy of mention. The edge of this octagonal issue displays evidence of shearing and filing. This suggests that the medals may have been struck on oversize planchets and trimmed to suit. Lending further credence to this theory is the fact that an attempt to reuse the reverse seal die in 1975 had to be delayed while it was turned down to a smaller diameter suitable for modern presses.

It has been suggested that the die work for the 1940 medal displays obvious evidence of hand engraving, a fact which would reinforce the connection to a jeweler such as Shreve. As is the case with Patrick & Co., however, the necessary documentation to establish this with certainty is lacking. Any additional conclusions can be only speculation.

The society's golden anniversary in 1965 presented an ideal opportunity to strike a medal. Indeed, a pair of drawings may be found in the PCNS archives for just such an item. These would ultimately be used for the society's 60th anniversary medal in 1975, but the subject does not appear at all in the minutes for 1960-65. Alas, we have only some photographs and a souvenir program by which to remember this important occasion.



Drawing from PCNS Archives, circa 1965

That this was an oversight seems to have been acknowledged ten years later with the issuance of a splendid medal for the society's 60th anniversary. Providing particular inducement for striking a medal was the fact that PCNS had access to an octagonal collar. The collar had been created two years earlier on behalf of the California State Numismatic Association for use in coining its medal honoring the rededication of the Old San Francisco Mint as a museum. This medal was produced by Medallions Unlimited of Santa Ana, California, a partnership of Richard and Barbara Hyde.

Upon receiving an order for medals from PCNS, the Hydes commissioned sculptor Borus Buzon to create a model featuring the design prepared by the society in 1965. This depicted San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, the most endearing of the few surviving structures from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. The history of this exposition and of PCNS are thoroughly intertwined as both harken back to a common place and time.

To date, this medal remains the only one of the society's emissions to have been sculpted rather than cut directly into the die. By all accounts, it is the most popular of the medals in this series.

Attempts to mate this die with the original seal die of 1940 were beset by problems. As mentioned above, the old die had to be turned down in a lathe before it could be set in Hydes' press. All was for nought, as the aged die cracked during the initial trial strikes. Medallions Unlimited then had to replace it with a newly created duplicate. While readily distinguishable from the original die, the replacement proved satisfactory in all respects, and the order was filled.

By its very nature as a sculpted piece, the 60th anniversary medal was an expensive issue. Medal Chairman Don Thrall reported to the Board of Governors at its January 1975 meeting that some \$2,800 would have to be raised. A target

date of April 1 was set for achieving this goal, and a novel method of fund raising was conceived. At a previous meeting, Thrall had suggested the sale to members of non-interest-bearing bonds. The board agreed to this plan and directed him to proceed with it. Following the conclusion of this program, the bonds were gradually retired as funds became available through other sources such as medal sales and the annual white elephant auction. (A specimen bond may still be found within the minutes for 1974.)

Although a clever plan, the sale of bonds realized less than half the amount needed by the time of the deadline. It was agreed to proceed with the production order regardless, as the medals were desired for the anniversary banquet in June. One hundred silver strikes and 500 bronze were ordered along with a quantity of silver and bronze uniface medals for presentation purposes. These featured the seal design alone.

The 60th anniversary medals did not arrive in time for the June banquet but were displayed at the following month's regular meeting. Priced at \$15 for silver and \$3 for bronze, the former were sold out within two years. Bronze pieces remained available as late as January 1990 when the last of the society's holdings were sold at \$5 each. Previously, they had been selling at a rate of two to three medals a year or had been utilized as raffle prizes. A large number of this issue was counterstamped in 1980 in recognition of the society's 65th anniversary.

continued on following pages

FREMONT COIN CLUB'S 18th Annual Coin Show

EXHIBITS — BOURSE — DRAWINGS — REFRESHMENTS

ELK'S HALL — FREMONT, CALIF
38999 Farwell Drive (take Mowry Exit from Nimitz Fwy.)

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10 AM - 5 PM

FREE ADMISSION

Exhibitors Contact P.O. Box 1401, Fremont, CA

Since sales of the bronze medals dropped off rapidly after the first few months, a plan was conceived for utilizing some of the remainder. A motion was passed at the January 1980 meeting to create a medallic commemorative for the society's 65th anniversary, yet no specific proposals were offered at that time. Additional mention of this program does not appear in the minutes until May 1980 at which time Thrall displayed a bronze 1975 medal counterstamped on the seal side with "65TH YEAR 1980". It was agreed that this would suffice as a commemorative, and some 150 to 200 medals were so counterstamped. The exact number is not recorded. These were offered at the close-out price of \$1 apiece and sold very quickly. By September, Thrall was able to report that none of the counterstamped issue remained.

The next occasion for a commemorative medal occurred in 1982. The meeting of November 14 was to be the society's 800th, and the event was celebrated with an issue of silver and bronze medals. The seal die of 1975 was mated to a die which simply featured the particulars of this meeting. 100 silver medals and 250 bronze were struck by Medallions Unlimited. These were offered by the society at \$6.50 and \$3.50 respectively. The silver strikes sold out within two years, but the bronze pieces, although badly oxidized, were available as late as 1987.

More might be said about the 800th meeting medals but for the fact that the minutes from the meetings of 1982 and 1983 have apparently been lost. Furthermore, the PCNS Bulletin for these years sheds little light on the subject. Nothing is on record regarding the planning for and distribution of these medals.

The approach of the society's 75th anniversary was recognized early on as the occasion for a medal. By the end of 1988 the Board of Governors had selected for the commemorative side the obverse of the Panama Pacific International Exposition \$50 gold coin. Again, the society's founding during the 1915 fair provided a logical tie-in, and it was agreed by the board that this design was fitting recognition of both events. The legends appearing on the 1915 coin were revised to reflect the anniversary theme.

Despite this promising start, the 1990 medal program was beset by two problems arising from a common circumstance. The passage of years since the society's last medal in 1982 had brought about the death of Richard Hyde, the illness and subsequent retirement of Barbara Hyde and the inevitable suspension of Medallions Unlimited. As this partnership had produced both the 1975 and 1982 medals, the need to find a new coiner presented itself.

The question arose of whether another coiner could adapt the existing seal die for use in his own press. In the spring of 1989, this writer prepared a scale drawing of the die which was then sent to prospective coiners. Unfortunately, the die was declared unsuitable by each respondent, and the society was faced with the cost of manufacturing two new dies rather than the single die anticipated.

Even more troubling was the fact that no progress had been made in securing from Barbara Hyde the octagonal collar used for the two previous issues. The society's seal had been designed by Farran Zerbe in octagonal form as a tribute to pioneer coiners of the 1850s, and all of the PCNS medals to date were similarly shaped. Furthermore, the coin from which the 1990 medal was

being adapted had also been coined in octagonal form. To break with tradition was not a pleasant prospect, and every effort was made to maintain the octagonal configuration.

The death of Mrs. Hyde in December 1988 further reduced the likelihood that PCNS would be able to utilize the existing octagonal collar. Attempts to communicate with her heirs proved frustrating, and alternatives had to be considered.

In the meantime, Medal Chairman David Cieniewicz had been in communication with two medallists regarding production of an octagonal medal. Neither coiner possessed the requisite collar, and the consensus was that the cost of producing one would be prohibitive. In any event, both evidenced little desire to attempt an octagonal medal regardless of cost. It was with much regret that the board voted to strike a round medal in place of the octagonal form which had become associated with the society.

Some solace was to be found in the prospect that the society might yet have a sculpted medal as in 1975. The two medallists invited to submit samples of their work were both southern Californians, Alex Shagin of Los Angeles and G. Lee Kuntz, proprietor of Masterpeice Medallions of Claremont. The specimen submitted by Shagin as being sculpted work was not thought by the board to be sufficiently distinctive from the non-sculpted work of Kuntz to justify its greater cost, and the latter was granted the commission.

One hundred silver medals and 207¹ bronze were coined for the 75th anniversary. In addition to being round rather than octagonal, this issue is distinctive from the society's earlier medals in several respects. While the octagonal medals all have plain edges, the 1990 medals feature reeded edges. The bronze strikes contrast with earlier issues in that they have been antiqued rather than displaying the more conventional brilliant surfaces. Being smaller, the 1990 medals also weigh less than previous issues in the series. The silver strikes are coined of pure silver and weigh one ounce. The silver medals 1940, 1975 and 1982 are approximately 10 per cent heavier. Some effect of the octagonal medals was achieved in the 1990 issue by setting the seal's octagon within the round border.

The silver and bronze medals were offered in two-piece sets beginning in January 1990 with delivery expected sometime in the spring. Persons ordering before March 23 were offered a discounted price of \$20 for the pair. Single piece orders and those placed after March 23 were accepted at the regular price of \$20 for the silver strike and \$3 for the bronze. Delivery of the medals began in May and were in the hands of society members and other subscribers before the June banquet.

A quantity of uniface medals featuring the PCNS seal alone were also coined. As with the uniface strikes made in 1975, these will be retained for presentations and awards.

A catalog of PCNS Medals with illustrations is on the following pages.

1. 200 were ordered—additional pieces were a press overrun.

A CATALOG OF PCNS MEDALS

1. OBV: P.C.N.S. / SAN FRANCISCO / SILVER JUBILEE / 1915 JUNE 25
1940 / FARRAN ZERBE / FOUNDER
REV: Seal of PCNS, 1940 die.
Octagonal, 41.5mm, plain edge, .925(?) silver, brilliant, struck by Patrick & Co.(?) of San Francisco California, estimated 20 to 30 coined, \$3 issue.
 2. OBV: View of palace rotunda and partial view of gallery, 60th
ANNIVERSARY / 1915 P.C.N.S. 1975 / PALACE OF FINE ARTS / SAN
FRANCISCO, sculptor's monogram B at 6 o'clock.
REV: Seal of PCNS, 1975 die.
Octagonal, 40mm across flats, plain edge, .999 silver, prooflike, struck by Medallions Unlimited of Santa Ana, California, 100 coined, \$15 issue.
 3. Same as #2, except as noted
Bronze, brilliant, 500 coined (150-200 reused in 1980, see #4), \$3 issue.
 4. Same as #3, except counterstamped on seal: 65TH / YEAR / 1980
150-200 counterstamped, \$1 issue.
 5. OBV: P.C.N.S. / 800TH MEETING / NOVEMBER 14, 1982 / SAN
FRANCISCO / CALIFORNIA
REV: Seal of PCNS, 1975 die
Octagonal, 40mm across flats, plain edge, .999 silver, prooflike, struck by Medallions Unlimited of Santa Ana, California, 100 coined, \$6.50 issue.
 6. Same as #5 except as noted
Bronze, brilliant, 250 coined, \$3.50 issue.
 7. OBV: Helmeted head of Minerva facing left, clad in mail and bearing shield
inscribed M·C·M·X·V·, SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY / 1915 - 1990
REV: Seal of PCNS, 1990 die
Round, 39mm, reeded edge, .999 silver, prooflike, struck by Mastepiece
Medallions of Claremont, California, 100 coined, \$20 issue.
 8. Same as #7, except as noted
Bronze, antiqued, 207 coined, \$3 issue.
-

75th Anniversary Greetings

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society received greetings from officials of the American Numismatic Association. Letters of congratulations and encouragement were received from Kenneth L. Hallenbeck, Robert J. Leuver, Ralph C. Langham and Helen L. Carmody. Our society extends a thank you for the encouragement from these ANA officials.



PCNS Seal #1-6



Obverse #1



Obverse #2-4



Obverse #5-6



PCNS Seal #7-8



Obverse #7-8

From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston

THE FALL AND RISE OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Emperor Constantine I of Rome laid the foundations of the Holy Roman Empire's development in about 326 AD at about the same time the Roman Empire took a giant step onto the banana peel of decline. In fact, the two events are so closely intertwined that it is really a single story which we shall attempt to abbreviate from Gibbon's massive tome to a short read of about 3 minutes.

Rome had expanded during the first three centuries AD until it included lands from Britain to the far eastern coast of the Black Sea, nearly all of Europe and much of North Africa. Constantine acquired an empire with a unified government and monetary system where all free residents were citizens within this sphere. After vanquishing his foes, most of whom were relatives, he turned to his immediate family and began killing *them* about 325-6 AD, starting with his oldest son and then his wife. He had already moved his court from Rome to Arlate, but his new court had now lost its charm for him.



Constantine - 328 AD
Constantinople

Rather than return to Rome permanently, he looked east, selecting the ancient city of Byzantion as a new capital where he could design a city to replace the hut village in a strategic locale. Constantine closed the mint in London, focusing resources to the east and all but abandoning some western provinces, transferred government resources to "New Rome", paid senators and noble families to move east and populate his new city, and abandoned Rome as the real seat of his government. A mint was opened in 326, using the mintmark CONS for Constantinople, the city of Constantine. Christianity was adopted as the approved religion of the Roman Empire about 328 AD. Constantinople was dedicated on May 11, 330; the Roman Empire had a new capital and a new official religion from that time. Some of Constantine's early issues from his new mint show him looking up to heaven!

The city's old name eventually was used to identify this later Roman Empire as the Byzantine Empire. The city of Rome itself declined while Constantinople increased in trade and power. Over the next two centuries, Rome wasted away, was given away to local Gothic chieftains, and was even captured by force. Constantinople prospered, and the empire considered itself *Roman* in spite of the loss of its namesake city, which was really of little significance anymore. The emperors followed one after another at Constantinople beginning with Constantine; the Roman Empire was continuous in the minds of its citizens.

The most significant change for numismatists during the Byzantine

period came in 538 AD under Justinian I. He introduced a new coinage of bronze which officially changed the portrait bust of the emperor to a full-facing bust rather than a profile and ordered that the *date* of the issue should appear on all coins and documents from that time forth. While this rule was not followed into the last stages of Byzantine coinage, it resulted in one of the earliest long runs of dated coinage from an empire or kingdom.

Meanwhile, western Europe was developing some new powers; the most significant were to be the Franks. Charlemagne was declared emperor by the Pope at the beginning of the ninth century, but this was not viewed as a new empire in Europe. Charlemagne immediately begged for recognition of his new imperial authority from Constantinople. This was granted, making him co-emperor with the eastern Emperor of the Romans!

Charlemagne's power was passed along a line of emperors in Europe, eventually reaching Frederick Barbarossa in the twelfth century. Barbarossa, well aware of the source of his power and the history behind it, began referring to his empire as the Holy Roman Empire.

The Crusades were already underway, originating in Europe to assist, protect and preserve the Christian Romans in the eastern half of an empire which they believed was unified in both government and faith. With Islamic rulers gaining territory and followers in the Byzantine lands, Barbarossa was concerned that the concept of the empire as a unit be preserved with the understanding that it was still Roman and must be kept holy from the infidels.

Being both patriotic and religious, the new name naturally caught on and survived long after its meaning was lost.

Constantinople was eventually lost to the Ottoman Empire after centuries of holy wars which killed millions of people. The Holy Roman Empire, its power now dispersed among noblemen across Europe, still respected the Pope at Rome, and eventually established a procedure for electing an emperor who *ruled* over them all although he was often powerless to unite or govern them.

This practice of maintaining the structure of the Holy Roman Empire continued for centuries, usually with rulers in one part of the empire at war with a ruler elsewhere, and seldom were the emperor and Pope together able to stop these fights. Times were especially rough when the Pope and emperor took opposing sides. It finally reached the point where even the emperor had to obtain permission in advance to cross his own empire because of the property claims of the various noblemen who rivalled him in power and pride who were only loyal to him in theory. Finally, in 1806, Emperor Francis abandoned the title, admitting he ruled Austria alone.

The Holy Roman Empire which many believe began with Constantine the Great in 326 AD ended almost 1500 years later because the emperor realized he had no empire left to rule.

*From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston is a regular column of
The Journal which focuses on ancient and medieval times.*

KEELING-COCOS

by Grover Lewis Cagle

In the Indian Ocean 1,300 miles northeast of Australia lies a group of 27 islands known as Keeling-Cocos. The entire island group is only 5.4 square miles and has a population of under 2,000. Only Direction and Home Island are regularly inhabited.

These islands have an interesting 162-year history. Discovered by Captain William Keeling of the British East India Company in 1609, they were not settled until Alexander Hare established a short-lived colony on one of the southern islands about 1823. This settlement lasted less than one year.

In 1827, Hare and John Clunies-Ross established a permanent settlement on Direction Island. This settlement was to reship East Indian spices to Europe when there was shortage. Clunies-Ross brought with him 6 children, his mother-in-law and some workers from Java to build and work his plantation. In 1829, Hare departed, leaving Clunies-Ross sole owner of the islands. The isolation of the islands led Queen Victoria to give the Clunies-Ross family a perpetual grant to this territory.

The islands' first connection with Australia was when the Australian cruiser *HMAS Sydney* sank the German raider *SMS Emden* off the islands in 1914. The group became a British protectorate in 1856, was attached to Ceylon in 1878 and was placed under the administration of Straits Settlements in 1882. In 1903 the group was annexed to Straits Settlements and incorporated into the colony of Singapore until 1955, when it was placed under the administration of Australia.

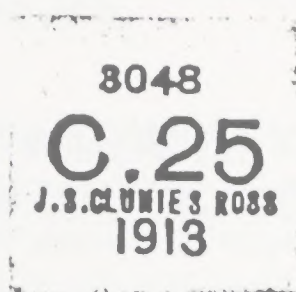
The founder's grandson began the issue of currency in 1870 to prevent his workers from buying guns, alcohol and drugs from visiting merchants. This currency was only legal in the islands. The earliest series were notes of exchange printed on sheepskin, then handsigned, dated and serially numbered by Clunies-Ross personally. The numbering of the notes prevented counterfeiting. This series lasted through the 19th century.

In 1913 a plastic token coinage known as ivory currency because of the color of the pieces replaced the note series. The rupee denominations were in black, the smaller shapes in red; a range of shapes were used. All pieces had their denomination embossed on them as a safeguard and for the benefit of the illiterate workers. No two values had the same color/shape combination.

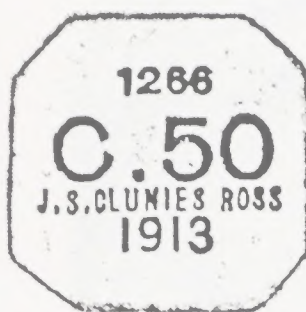
In 1968, a new token coinage under Australia was issued. It was of consistent design and ran from 1 cent through 25 rupees. The cent values were in aqua, the rupees in red.

Again in 1977, Australia issued coinage for the islands. All coins had a portrait of John Clunies-Ross on the reverse and a palm on the obverse. They ranged from a bronze 5 cent through a gold 150 rupees.

Many of the sheepskin notes are not listed in Pick's Standard Catalog of World Paper Money and are considered rare. At least three catalogs list the ivory tokens up to extra fine although uncirculated pieces are known to exist.



Plastic "Ivory" Token Issue of 1913



Modern Plastic Tokens



1977 Monetary System

Bibliography:

Krause & Mishler, *Standard Catalogue of World Coins*. 1989 edition.
P. J. Downie of Melbourne, Australia. *Price list*.



MEDALS ROUND-UP



PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY and SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society and the San Francisco Coin Club have announced plans to issue a joint medal using their 1990 Pan Pacific commemorative dies.



Specifications

Minted by Masterpiece Medallions, Claremont, CA.

Designed by: Obverse — PCNS Officers
Reverse — SFCC Officers

Diameter: 39mm round

Mintage: Silver (.999, 1oz.) limited to the number of orders received by September 5, 1990.

Ordering Information: The medals are \$20 each plus \$2 for postage (\$1 postage on each additional medal). Make checks payable to the San Francisco Coin Club. Mail orders to: Medals Chairman, P.O. Box 2698, Redwood City, CA 94064.

Bookworm, *continued from page 7*

Of course, a work of such quality faces a limited market, and this will inevitably be reflected in the book's cost. In fact, its price of \$135 may tend to scare away all but the most determined. Still, the information contained herein is not to be found anywhere else, and it is of inestimable value to the researcher or the person who simply desires to collect auction catalogs in a meaningful manner.

Delivery of *United States Numismatic Literature Volume 2* is anticipated in late summer. In addition, a few copies remain of *Volume 1*. These are priced at \$85 (California residents add sales tax). Include \$5 for postage and insurance and address all orders to George F. Kolbe, Fine Numismatic Books, P.O. Drawer 3100, Crestline, CA 92325.

SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS TOKENS

Sunny Jim

by Jerry F. Schimmel

The nickname "Sunny Jim" was long applied to San Francisco's smiling and best-known mayor, James Rolph, Jr. He occupied that post from 1912 to 1931, when he was elected governor of California. He died in office in 1934. One of the few native San Franciscans, he grew up in the Mission District.



His successful gubernatorial campaign was in 1930, and this 32mm gilt bronze political advertising piece was distributed as part of that activity. The obverse reads "Force, Bring Back Prosperity With Sunny Jim." The reverse states "Forget That Times Are Tough and Grim, Cheer Up and Smile With Sunny Jim. Good Luck, Good Health." The language is reminiscent of the language and political slogans used during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The meaning of the word "force" is not clear.

Source: San Francisco Almanac by Gladys Hansen, 1980.



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